2nd March 1954]

Sri S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" On what specific issues did the Madras representative disagree with the decisions of the Tripartite Conference? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I thought my hon. Friend would agree with me wholeheartedly. But he, as a labour representative, does not agree when the Madras Government agree to fix the minimum wage. We think that in the interests of labour, minimum wage must be fixed in industries. I am rather surprised at the question of the hon. Member."

Sri M. PALANIYANDI :—" மைசூரில் நடந்த கூட்டத்தில், முக்கூட்டு கமிட்டியின் தீர்மானங்களில் அடங்கியுள்ள சிபார்சுகள் என்னென்ன ? அவைகளை நடைமுறைக்குக் கொண்டுவர அரசியலார் என்ன செய்யப்போகிறார்கள் ? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No resolutions were passed at that meeting. There was only a general discussion on the relations obtaining between labour and employers. It was only a recorded discussion and I must frankly say that no resolution was passed and no conclusion was arrived at at that meeting." 10-20 a.m.

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" இப்பொழுது சில தொழில்களுக்கு குறைந்தபட்ச சம்பளம் இவ்வளவு என்று நிர்ணயித்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் எல்லாத் தொழில்களுக்கும் இம்மாதிரி நிர்ணயிப்பதற்கு இரண்டு வருடங்கள் கழித்துத்தான் சட்டம் கொண்டுவர முடியுமென்று மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் இந்த இரண்டு வருடங்களுக்குள் இப்பொழுது கொடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் சம்பளத்தையாவது முதலாளிகள் குறைக்காமல் இருப்பதற்குச் சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கையை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்போகிறார்கள் ? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Gentleman, I am afraid, is putting a hypothetical question. If he brings to the notice of the Government specific cases where the existing rates of wages have been reduced, some action can be taken, for it then becomes an industrial dispute and the tribunals can adjudicate upon that."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Does the decision to fix minimum wages apply to plantation labour? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I require notice of this question. But so far as I remember, I do not think it applies to plantation labour."

Levy of tolls on vehicles passing over bridges.

* 27 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state in how many cases in this State the Government are levying tolls on vehicles passing over bridges to recoup the cost of the construction of the bridge or on any other account?

[2nd March 1954

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Tolls are being levied in respect of the following four bridges :—

(1) Decked railway bridge over Baliapatnam river between Azhikkar and Taliparamba road stations including the approach roads in Malabar district.

(2) Bridge over Gurupur river near Kulur in South Kanara district.

(3) Bridge over Payaswami river at Tekkil in South Kanara district and

(4) Bridge over Bharatapuzha river in Kuttipuram, Malabar district."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" What is the object of the Government in collecting these tolls? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Tolls are collected with a view to recoup the cost of construction of the bridge wherever it exceeds Rs. 5 lakhs."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Do the Government collect interest at 4½ per cent on the capital amount spent on this account? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, I cannot furnish the interest-rate now. But I can say that some interest is being charged."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know what the basis adopted for the fixation of the rates of these tolls is? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I cannot give out the basis offhand. The rates of levy are here. I can now give those rates only."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Are the Government aware that the total collection of these tolls in each year will not even come up to the amount of interest, whatever that amount might be? I found in the papers that interest was being charged at the rate of 4½ per cent. So, it means that the Government will be collecting these tolls eternally so long as the bridge is in existence."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No, Sir. Unless we make sufficient progress in order to recover the cost of construction, the existence of a levy will not be justifiable, and I shall have the question examined."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" உத்சவ காலங்களில் இந்த டோல் வரி வசூலிக்கப்படுவது எதற்காக ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" இது வாராவதியைப் பற்றிய கேள்வி. "

2nd March 1954]

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be given notice of."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Hon. Minister was pleased to state that tolls were being levied on vehicles passing through certain bridges the cost of construction of which exceeded Rs. 5 lakhs. The Hon. Minister also stated that tolls are levied on 4 bridges in the State. Are we to understand that there are only four bridges in the State the cost of construction of which has exceeded Rs. 5 lakhs? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is only a new policy that we are now adopting. Wherever bridges are constructed at a cost exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs, we are levying tolls. This does not apply to old bridges already constructed the cost of which might exceed Rs. 5 lakhs."

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIYAR :—" May I know whether the tax is levied on motor vehicles only or even on handcarts? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is levied on all vehicles, Sir."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government consider the suggestion to construct more bridges in South Kanara district on condition of tolls being levied? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" There is no condition as such. Wherever the cost of constructing a bridge exceeds Rs. 5 lakhs, tolls will be levied. Further, I may say, for the information of the hon. Member, that it is not the intention of the Government to levy tolls for all time to come. In fact, the Government of India have deprecated the idea. It is only as a short-term policy that we are collecting tolls. We are recovering only half the cost and not the full cost of construction of a bridge. That is what the Government of India have allowed us to do."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த toll வரி பிரிட்டிஷ் ஏகாதிபத்திய சர்க்கார் இருந்த காலத்திலிருந்து வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறதா அல்லது காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் அதிகாரத்திற்கு வந்ததிலிருந்து வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறதா ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Tolls are collected only in the case of certain bridges recently constructed. The conditions which prevailed previously are not existing now. It is only because of the poor state that we are in now, that we are collecting these tolls, and that too, as a special measure and short-term policy. So, this tax is of recent origin."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it a new policy under the Five-Year Plan or will that policy be changed as soon as collection of tolls in the case of the bridges referred to is over? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This is only a short-term policy. I have already said that it is not the intention of the Government to persist in collecting these tolls. As a temporary measure only, we are collecting these tolls in the case of certain bridges which we have recently constructed."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Most of the modern Governments have given up the system of collecting tolls. Do the Madras Government in this matter wish to go back to the Middle Ages as in other matters? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, I may say that the Chief Minister has remarked in this file that our Prime Minister is of the view that this could be done and that there is a practice in America to levy ear-marked fees on certain special occasions. I cannot understand what the hon. Member means by ' modern Governments ' and all that. In America, there is such a practice."

Water-cess for the supply of water from tube wells.

* 28 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the rate of water-cess per acre for the supply of water from the 101 tube wells sunk under the Grow More Food Scheme and the average cost to sink one tube well; and

(*b*) how many of the 101 tube wells have failed to supply water?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The water rate charged is Rs. 22–8–0 per acre per annum.

The average cost of sinking one well is about Rs. 5,700.

" (*b*) Five wells were unsuccessful and had to be abandoned as such."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" In view of the fact that no such cess is collected on account of agricultural improvements effected under the Grow More Food Schemes and as the water-cess collected so far has reached the maximum limit equivalent to the cost of sinking the wells, will the Government consider the desirability of giving up the policy of collecting water-cess? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir. An additional special expenditure has been incurred on the construction of these 101 wells and, therefore, taking into account the approximate total cost, this levy of Rs. 22–8–0 per acre per annum as water rate has been decided upon. But, I can tell the hon. Member that the Government are considering, now that all the construction work is over, whether they could reduce this water-rate, taking into account the actual cost of construction of these wells."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" இந்த ட்யூப் வெல் சிஸ்டத்தை" மற்ற இடங்களுக்கும் விஸ்தரிக்க சர்க்காருக்கு எண்ணம் உண்டா ? "